

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government is aware about the hacking of the computer system at Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta. It was detected at about 9 a.m. on 10th July, 2000. The hacking affected the e-mail/web page server, log files and e-mail service of the Institute's centre at Calcutta. However, e-mail service was restored by noon on the same day. The Institute is taking measures to ensure security by installing suitable software.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 14TH AUGUST, 2000*

Request for reduction of taxes on petroleum Products

†*301. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any request to Ministry of Finance to reduce the rate of taxes being levied on petroleum products;

(b) if so, when was the said request made;

(c) whether a proposal for reducing the taxes had also been submitted through the said request;

(d) if so, what are the comprehensive details of the proposal; and

*The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 14th August, 2000 was cancelled. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, the 17th August, 2000.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) the reasons which led to the submission of the proposal to the Ministry of Finance?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. There were pre-budget consultations between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Finance to consider reducing import/excise duties in view of the steep hike in global prices of petroleum products. Duties have been revised in the Union Budget for 2000-2001 presented in Parliament on 29-02-2000. The changes in customs duty effected in the Union Budget are as under:—

Items	Rate of customs duty	
	1999-2000	2000-01
Crude Oil	20%	15%
Motor Spirit	30%	25%
High Speed Diesel	30%	25%
Aviation Turbine Fuel	30%	25%
Light Diesel Oil	30%	25%
Furnace Oil	30%	25%
Bitumen	30%	25%
Low Sulphur Heavy Stock	30%	25%
All other petroleum products	30%	25%
Kerosene (Parallel Marketing Scheme)	30%	35%

In addition, petroleum products are also subject to sales tax and other local taxes/levies under the local statutes which are administered by State Governments.